FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOVERNMENT PREPARING REPLY TO BRAZIL ON PARANA PROJECTS

PY271912 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1510 GMT 27 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (LATIN)--Sources close to government house have indicated that President Jorge Rafael Videla met with Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor this morning to give him instructions on the preparation of a stern reply to Brazil in view of its rejection of the Argentine proposal regarding the coordination of the Parana River hydroelectric projects.

Pastor, who has just returned from a brief vacation, plans to meet with the Argentine ambassadors to Brazil and Paraguay, Oscar Camilion and Norberto Novoa, who are currently in Buenos Aires to discuss the document.

Diplomatic sources predict that the Foreign Ministry will respond to the Brazilian letter received last week, and it is believed that the response will be stern.

Camilion arrived from Brazil yesterday and immediately met with officials of the Foreign Ministry, including Under Secretary Carlos Cavandoli and Arturo Ossorio Arana, chief of the ministry's River Plate Basin Department. The Argentine ambassador to Brazil refused to make any comments on the matter until he meets with Foreign Minister Pastor.

According to CLARIN, there is still divided opinion in the Foreign Ministry on the appropriate date for answering Brazil in view of the imminent change of government in that country. According to CLARIN, one group of diplomats supports the idea of an immediate answer, even at the risk of not serving a useful purpose but with the idea of giving strength to the Argentine reaction to be conveyed to Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, whom many sectors hold responsible for the many disagreements between the two countries on the matter as well as for excessive bureaucracy.

This group hopes for an improvement of relations, even in the area of the Parana River projects, with the new Brazilian Government and believes that there is no need to put initial obstacles in the way of future Brazilian Foreign Minister Ramiro Saravia Guerreiro.

The other sector fears it is not likely that a change of men will bring changes in the basic guidelines of Brazilian foreign policy and prefers to wait until 15 March to answer the Brazilian objections to the Argentine proposal regarding the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects. This group is hoping for the possibility of a personal meeting between Saraiva Guerriero and Pastor when the Argentine foreign minister goes to Brasilia to head the Argentine delegation at the presidential inauguration of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo.

LA NACION REBUTS BRAZIL'S REJECTION OF PARANA PROPOSAL

PY272312 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 24 Feb 79 p 6 PY

[Editorial: "Inconsistent Brazilian Attitude"]

[Excerpts] Brazil has decided to call off negotiations on the coordination of the Itaipu and Corpus projects and, at the same time, to withdraw its proposal allowing a height of 105 meters for the latter. Itamaraty has alleged that the latest Argentine proposals innovate and change the basis for agreement laid down in talks held in Rio de Janeiro in September 1978, to which Itamaraty attached, by the way, the character of a concluded agreement.

It was a good move on Argentina's part to submit its proposals to the two members of the trilateral negotiations separately--to Brazil in Brasilia and to Paraguay in Asuncion--because the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, as it has done on previous occasions with similar arguments, has made a unilateral decision which jeopardizes per se the trilateral approach by formally omitting Paraguay. But, even overlooking this aspect, Itamaraty's objections to Argentina's handling of the matter are as inconsistent in substance as they are fallacious in their polemic intention.

First, the conclusions of September 1978 are not that binding because, as previously agreed, they were to be submitted for the approval of their respective governments by the negotiators, with an expressed statement to that effect on the part of Paraguay. Then, and perhaps more important in light of Itamaraty's objection, it was at that point that the balancing equation formula represented by the terms "Corpus height- versus-Itaipu operation" was altered by merely mentioning 18 turbines "in operation" instead of definitely stating their quantity. This number was understood to be a constant at all times. It is obvious that the alteration lies right here because it is impossible to dissociate the number of turbines from the mode of operation. Consequently, Argentina left the establishment of Corpus' height pending while the formula was still in equilibrium.

In addition, regarding the question of filling Itaipu's reservoir, Brazil proposed to close the flow of the Parana River and compensate for the closing with water from the Iguazu River by releasing 3,470 cubic meters to be measured at the Encarnacion-Posadas line. This volume is practically the minimum in drought periods, well below the usual volume of 7,000 cubic meters. This is to say that Brazil set a condition equivalent to a catastrophic situation. Moreover, Brazil now complains that Argentina is interfering in the question of filling the lake, which should be the concern only of the two partners in Itaipu (Brazil and Paraguay), not the concern of the three countries. But it did not mention the fact that the Iguazu is a binational river, shared by Argentina and Brazil. How then can Brazil state that the filling of the Itaipu dam is not a trilateral question?

As can be seen, far from breaking off the line of negotiations and the attitude to reach an agreement, Argentina has been accepting the changes in the terms of the formula or equation, provided that its equilibrium is maintained.

The official reply to Itamaraty, which was already announced by the San Martin Palace, will certainly contain all the elements of judgment to justify Argentina's posture throughout the trilateral negotiations, and they should help clarify public opinion. Our ambassador in Brasilia, who was recalled, should also help in the preparation of that reply. For the time being and as far as the press is concerned in clarifying and shaping opinions, the tone assumed by the Brazilian press in dealing with the situation created by Itamaraty is worth noting.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

PY271448 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2324 GMT 26 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (NA)--A group of leaders of the Christian Democratic Party today released a document strongly criticizing the official economic policy, asking for a "radical change" in the area and warning that the country "is being threatened by serious social tensions" and by "the breakdown of our productive apparatus." Among other citizens, the document is signed by Enrique de Vedia, Martin Dip, Francisco Cerro, Nestor Vicente and Otelo Zamponi.

The authors of the document maintain that "the economic crisis, whose constant aggravation during the past few months has prompted reaction from all representative sectors of national life, is not an isolated phenomenon in the real Argentine situation.

"On the contrary, it is part of an overall political, economic and social process determined by the lack of an effective implementation of the state of law, disregard for the social achievements won by the workers and by the devaluation of the contribution made by the small- and medium-size companies," they stated.

The leaders of the Christian Democrats feel that the official economic policy "serves to support a materialistic policy which considers human labor as merchandise, national sovereignty as an exchange asset and financial speculation as a legal economic instrument." The government's economic policy is also charged with considering "federalism as an obstacle and regional development as an unproductive expense."

The document also states that it is a policy which "punishes those who work, despises investment and social consumption and controls the budgets, thus causing the deterioration of health, social advancement, education and culture."

JUSTICIALISTS CALL FOR ECONOMIC CHANGE, RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

PY271315 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1520 GMT 26 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (LATIN)--Through a document published today, leaders of the Justicialist (Peronist) Party have asked the Argentine military government for a drastic turn in its economy policy and for the reestablishment of democracy in the country. Following the criticism made last week by representatives of the Radical Party, the second most important party after Peronism, the Justicialists have asked the government to put an end to the process of destroying the national productive apparatus.

The document, signed by several scores of leaders headed by former Ambassador Manuel de Anchorena, proposed a number of economic measures, including an increase in salaries, the establishment of ceilings for basic products, the elimination of economic indexation and protection of the national industry. The document also proposed the reestablishment of the people's right to elect their leaders and the release of former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, who has been under arrest since 24 March 1976, when the military assumed power.

BRIEFS

OCEANOGRAPHY RESEARCH--The Argentine research ship Islas Orcadas left the Buenos Aires Port on a 50-day research mission to carry out biological, physicochemical and geological studies in the area of the Malvinas Islands continental shelf. The scientists are members of the Argentine Naval Hydrography Department, the Argentine Antarctic Institute and the U.S. National Science Foundation. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2212 GMT 22 Feb 79 PY]

HYDROGRAPHIC BUOYS IN ANTARCTICA--The icebreaker "San Martin" left this afternoon for the General San Martin Antarctic Station, where it will proceed to relieve army personnel and scientists and install hydrographic buoys. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 27 Feb 79 PY]

DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTING AMNESTY IN URUGUAY HELD IN LA PAZ

FY241602 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0338 GMT 24 Feb 79 FY

[Text] La Paz, 23 Feb (LATIN)--Two former Bolivian presidents, several political leaders and the Bolivian Labor Central (COB) demanded political amnesty in Uruguay here today.

The declaration was given to several leaders of the Uruguayan Party for the People's Victory [Por la Victoria del Pueblo--PLVP] who are here on a Latin American tour seeking solidarity for an international campaign supporting an amnesty.

Hugo Cores, one of the representatives of the Uruguayan opposition forces, said in a press conference today that the immediate support obtained in Bolivia will be decisive in the struggle for restoring freedom in Uruguay. Cores emphasized the importance of the support achieved in Bolivia, a country in which only a year ago a general amnesty was achieved thanks to the heroic hunger strike carried out by four female mineworkers.

The opposing leader described to the Bolivian press the repressive picture in Uruguay, charging that there are currently 6,000 political prisoners. He added that these prisoners held for political and union activity do not have a single lawyer to defend them in view of the reprisals which resulted in the expulsion of 50 lawyers who were concerned about the prisoners.

Cores gave details of permanent violations of human rights in Uruguay through military and paramilitary procedures, detentions, tortures, disregard of legal rules and even harsher jail conditions.

He said: "We believe that an international campaign of denunciation and solidarity will contribute toward changing this situation imposed by a civilian-military regime in a country where 20 percent of the active population had to be forced into exile."

The Uruguayan leaders also denounced the permanent persecution of Uruguayan citizens in Brazil and emphasized, as an example, the kidnaping of Lilian Celiberti and Universindo Rodriguez, who were kidnaped by police agents in Porto Alegre on 12 November 1978 and are currently being held incommunicado in Uruguay.

The political delegation will leave for Peru tomorrow.

NATIONALIST FRONT SAID TO FAVOR OAS ENVOY AS CANDIDATE

FY241808 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 79 FY

[Excerpt] Gonzalo Romero (Alvarez Garcia) reportedly will be proclaimed the presidential candidate of the Nationalist Democratic Alliance [Alianza Nacionalista Democratica]. This political group is comprised of the various parties which formed the People's Nationalist Union, which (?supported) Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's candidacy in the annulled elections of July last year. Gonzalo Romero (Alvarez Garcia) is now Bolivian ambassador to the OAS in Washington.

Reports released by the aforementioned political organization say that Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez' candidacy has supposedly been rejected because in the view of the country's constitutionalization process, the Nationalist Democratic Alliance (?prefers to) have a civilian as its candidate in the upcoming elections. Reports from that political group also say that the Bolivian National Peasant Workers Confederation will join the Nationalist Democratic Alliance within the next few days.

MEXICO TO BECOME MAJOR SUPPLIER OF PETROLEUM FOR BRAZIL

PY272340 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Feb 79 p 1 PY

[Text] Mexico should become, over the short term, an important supplier of petroleum to Brazil with an initial supply next year of 30 million barrels per day. Talks already have been undertaken between the leaders of Mexican Petroleum and Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS], according to sources in the Brazilian firm. Regarding maritime shipment, triangular operations (the kind usually carried out by PETROBRAS) ought to eliminate the obstacle of earlier negotiations for Brazilian imports: Brazil will export part of the petroleum obtained from Mexico, offsetting in this fashion the cost of freight and the final price of the product.

URANIUM YIELD IN POCOS DE CALDAS FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

PY262213 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 79 p 30 PY

[By P.A.]

[Text] The average percentage of uranium content in the Pocos de Caldas deposits is not that originally predicted when economic feasibility studies were made to justify investments for their mining and processing, Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS] directors admitted yesterday in Pocos de Caldas. The average estimated at that time was 0.15 percent and the true average turned out to be only 0.08 percent. The information about this difference was initially given by authoritative sources in the National Nuclear Energy Commission and the Sao Paulo University Atomic Energy Institute who believe that "the lower average uranium content will result in the economic unfeasibility of the industrial complex erected by NUCLEBRAS in Pocos de Caldas for the production of uranium concentrate or yellow cake." The NUCLEBRAS directors, however, did not agree with this conclusion and denied that the project has become unviable because of the lower average uranium content.

According to the same sources, the reduction of average uranium content in the Pocos de Caldas ore "will result in a reduction of the predicted production of uranium concentrate. Instead of a production of 500 tons per year, the NUCLEBRAS plant will have difficulty producing 300 tons per year--and with production costs substantially higher." The scientists and experts who gave this information also pointed out another "error of analysis" which will cause another problem for the project: "The molybdenum associated with uranium was considered as a byproduct, but NUCLEBRAS will just have an impurity associated with uranium, not a byproduct. The molybdenum, which was considered for extraction and consequent sale, will no longer contribute to the project's economic viability."

During President Geisel's visit to Pocos de Caldas yesterday, NUCLEBRAS directors said that "this information was completely baseless." Mineral Resources Director John Milne Albuquerque Fornan, who is considered one of the best Brazilian experts on this matter, observed that although the average uranium content is not 0.15 percent as predicted but only 0.08 percent, the project for the production of yellow cake is still viable: "With the increase in the price of uranium, the Pocos de Caldas deposits are more valuable. NUCLEBRAS will only need to process more ore to obtain a given amount of uranium, but this does not affect the preplanned levels of uranium concentrate production nor does it pose any risk for the Brazilian nuclear program."

Eduardo Calmon, another NUCLEBRAS director, also refuted the information given by the sources mentioned earlier. According to him, "NUCLEBRAS in fact estimated an average uranium percentage of 0.15 percent initially, but the actual average percentage is somewhat smaller. But nothing can prevent NUCLEBRAS from processing more ore to obtain the 500 tons per year of concentrate as planned in the project. [paragraph continues]

"This can cause operational costs to be slightly higher. It can be guaranteed, however that the project is in no way unviable."

Armando Henrique da Conciecao, who is responsible for the extraction of ore in Pocos de Caldas, also said that the information regarding the unfeasibility of the project is "unfounded." He also observed that "if the content of molybdenum and zirconium associated with uranium were reduced, it would be for the better because the process for obtaining uranium concentrate will be easier, resulting in lower costs."

Referring to the molybdenum associated with uranium in Pocos de Caldas, Fornan stated that the NUCLEBRAS plant will produce close to 275 tons of that metal per year as a byproduct. And that amount cannot be considered just an impurity.

LABOR PARTY COMMISSION MEETS TO PLAN REGISTRATION

PY271347 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 79 p 6 PY

[Text] The commission proposed by former Governor Leonel Brizola which is responsible for obtaining the registration of the Brazilian Labor Party [PTB] consists of former Deputies Doutel de Andrade and Ivete Vargas and lawyer Trajano Riberiro. The commission met yesterday for the first time in Rio de Janeiro and decided to fight to make the labor movement cohesive, to expand it to all states through debates and to seek legal channels to obtain its registration, which may involve publishing public declarations, statutes and platforms of the future party and the nationwide collection of voters' signatures.

After the meeting, which was also attended by former PTB Deputies Paiva Muniz and Jose Gomes Talarico, Doutel de Andrade said: We considered the basic guidelines which will be observed from now on. These guidelines are of various types since the objective of reorganizing the party involves a broad variety of measures and provisions, especially in a country in which the legislation in force concerning the creation of new parties is characterized by its extremely authoritarian nature. This means that quite complex, painstaking stages will have to be overcome to reorganize the labor movement.

He added: I want to make it clear that the objective is neither to impose a party nor the desires of a small leadership. The party we want to create will have to come into being through broad consultation with the country's social grassroots, especially those sectors of wage and salary earners who comprise the major sectors of the nation. Although the laws governing parties are truly draconian and vertical, we will cope with those difficulties and the obstacles they present.

Doutel reported that the PTB will not be reorganized through congressional channels--that is, by trying to obtain the endorsement of at least 42 deputies and 8 senators--but through the collection of signatures of support from voters. Doutel noted, however, that priority will not be assigned to the collection of signatures. Instead, the PTB will first publish in the newspaper a manifest concerning its constitution, its statutes and its platform, which have already been outlined. After the publication, a national PTB executive commission will be created which in turn will determine the dissemination of regional executive commissions throughout the states.

This was, in fact, the same road unsuccessfully followed by the Republican Democratic Party [PDR], which was thought out by former Vice President Pedro Aleixo. The PDR published both a manifest, its platform and statutes, but was never able to collect the minimum number of signatures required by law (approximately 1.5 million) after several years of campaigning.

PERUVIAN DIPLOMAT MEETS CUBILLOS, TALKS TO PRESS

PY280142 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 79 PY

[Text] (Alberto Montagne), minister counselor and Peruvian charge d'affaires in Chile, stated today that relations between Peru and Chile are normal. Queried about full normalization of diplomatic contacts, he said: We have to be optimistic.

The Peruvian diplomat went to the Foreign Ministry at noon today and met Minister Cubillos and Javier Illanes, director general of the Foreign Ministry, but declined to comment on the issues they discussed.

(Montagne) was queried by newsmen about the prospects of diplomatic ties between the two countries, which have been at the level of charge d'affaires since 20 January, when the Peruvian Government declared Chilean Ambassador Francisco Bulnes persona non grata and recalled its ambassador in Santiago, Guillermo Arbulu Galliani.

Commenting on reports quoting Chilean diplomatic sources in Lima that there may be good news in Peruvian-Chilean relations in March, (Montagne) said that he only knows about these reports through the press. He said: I believe we should all be optimistic. He added that relations are normal. He also noted that he had no information about an alleged Chilean Government request for the Peruvian Government's agreement to the appointment of a new Chilean ambassador in Lima. He also noted that no date has yet been set for the return to Santiago of Ambassador Arbulu, who has been on vacation in his country.

NEW GOVERNMENT SECRETARY GENERAL NAMED

PY280045 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Brig Gen Julio Fernandez Apienza, who was chief of the advisory committee of the military junta, has been appointed new minister secretary general of government. The president of the republic will administer to him the oath of office tomorrow at 1000. He will replace Brig Gen Rene Vidal, who was appointed chief of the Chilean military mission in Washington. Finally, Brig Gen (Alejandro Medina) will replace General Fernandez as chief of the advisory committee of the military junta. These appointments were disclosed this afternoon by Luciano Vazquez, national director of social communications.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER TALKS TO JOURNALISTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

PY271409 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Feb 79 PY

[Recorded portions in quotation marks]

[Text] Fernando Matthei Aubel, commander of the Chilean Air Force, FACH, has stated that the future of Chile lies beside that of its Latin American brothers. General Matthei made this statement during a meeting with journalists attached to the national defense sector.

During his meeting with the journalists, General Matthei discussed several important issues such as the alleged purchase of 100 jets which, according to a Peruvian magazine, were purchased by FACH in India. He also thanked the PRC Government for the aid offered Chile if there is a Soviet or Cuban attack on Chile. This offer was recently made by Hu Zhengfang, PRC ambassador to Santiago.

"Speaking strictly from a military viewpoint, I believe this is a noble gesture on the part of the PRC, although at present there is no serious threat of aggression from either Cuba or the Soviet Union. We therefore hope that there will be no need for this aid. Nevertheless, this is a very noble gesture which the Chileans deeply appreciate." [passage indistinct]

He noted that FACH, together with the other branches of the armed forces, guarantee national security in the event of any international aggression. He said that FACH has never believed Chile was on the threshold of war.

"I believe the future of Chile lies beside that of its Latin American brothers. Chile is with Argentina, Peru and Bolivia, and not against Argentina, Peru and Bolivia. This is why if there is a crisis, Chile acts with the calm and serenity characteristic of those who know they are right. We believe that time should pass without leaving any permanent wounds because, if there are any deaths or armed conflicts, these acts would torment us for a hundred years or more. We therefore always try to avoid any conflict. I believe that all Chileans are aware that this has always been done at the highest levels.

"I am proud to say that I am a member of the group which at present is leading the country during an important period of its history. I can only express my admiration for the president's serenity and firm character and for the capacity of the foreign minister and [word indistinct] entire team."

The FACH commander said that all countries which became independent at the same time should march united in their quest for long-lasting peace and cooperation.

General Matthei denied the alleged purchase of 100 jets in India. This rumor was recently published in a Peruvian magazine. He explained that this was a mistake because Chile only sent a turbine to be repaired. He added that FACH lacks the economic capacity, the pilots and even the bases needed to maintain this kind of plane.

The junta member made an important announcement regarding an invitation he has received: "Yes, I have been invited to go to Uruguay from 14 to 18 of the present month [as heard]. Thus, I will return the visit the Uruguayan Air Force commander made to Chile last year. This visit will also help strengthen relations between our two countries, which have had the best of relations throughout their history."

General Matthei also said that although Chile experienced a difficult time toward the end of last year, the storm had passed without any problems. He added that at present there is complete calm to continue working for the new institutionalization which the Chilean people have been promised.

BOMBINGS REPORTED AT CULTURAL CENTER, UNION BUILDING

FY271824 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Feb 79 FY

[Text] The police have reported that explosives were placed at the Regional Secretariat of Unions located in Valparaiso and at the U.S.-Chilean Cultural Institute in Santiago. The bomb at the U.S.-Chilean Cultural Center exploded at about 0429 causing damage [words indistinct]. The bomb at the Regional Secretariat of Unions in Valparaiso damaged the building and broke windows in nearby houses. The police have started an investigation to establish the identity of the perpetrators of both attacks.

ARREST WARRANTS ISSUED FOR CALI M-19 SUSPECTS

PA242121 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 23 Feb 79 p 5-A PA

[By Jairo Ortiz C.]

[Excerpts] Cali, 22 Feb--Warrants for the arrest of eight persons charged with being members of the self-styled M-19 movement were issued here today by three military investigative judges who are undertaking investigations to identify members and discover operation sites of the group which, according to security bodies, is being eradicated.

The arrest warrants issued by the 45th, 48th and 106th military penal judges are for Fernando Orozco Ramirez, Guillermo Montealegre, Ivan Marino Ospina, Fanny Gomez de Ospina, Guillermo Arturo N. (anthropologist), Guillermo Aguirre Osorio (economist of Valle University), Gustavo Gonzalez and Mario Perez Collazos.

Fanny Gomez de Ospina and Ivan Marino Ospina were officially identified as the couple who lived in the building of the Nueva Tequendama neighborhood of Cali where the army discovered a "people's jail" and dismantled one of the main M-19 operations centers in the country.

The couple, who was known to neighbors as the Ruiz family--as EL ESPECTADOR previously reported--had lived for the past year in the building, where the army also found pamphlets and antigovernment material.

Meanwhile, a group of students charged here today that they were physically and psychologically tortured by the army during operations troops have carried out in various areas of the city in an effort to find M-19 collaborators.

In a visit to the EL ESPECTADOR office, 20-year-old Luis Alberto Palacio Londono, a 6th-year student of the Professional Center of Technical and Financial Studies and current treasurer of the Federation of Secondary Students of Valle (UNES), recounted that many army troops arrived at his house, No 69-93 1st Street in San Luis neighborhood. After raiding the house, they arrested and transferred him to the Pichincha battalion installations.

Palacio Londono stated: "They held me there for 4 days, without food or water, blindfolded and my hands tied. They burned my beard with electrical cables and forced me to do exercises which injured my knees. They then placed electrical probes on my stomach and chest so that I would talk. What was I going to say if my only activities have been as promoter of the Federation of Secondary Students of Valle?" Palacio Londono was released during the past dew hours.

DECREASE IN DOMESTIC COFFEE PRICES TO BE DISCUSSED

PA272000 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Manizales--The Manizales coffegrowers have convened a meeting to thoroughly analyze the measures adopted by the government yesterday decreasing the price of an arroba of coffee by 90 pesos. The meeting will be held at 1500 on Wednesday in the conference room of Los Fundadores theater. The growers will analyze the effects that the government measures will have on coffegrowing. The government measures are considered to be the worst to affect the coffee economy over the past few years. The meeting has been promoted by a group of coffeegrowers headed by former Manizales Mayor Favio Trujillo Agudelo.

TWO SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TENDER RESIGNATIONS

PA240027 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Raul Zambrano report from the presidency]

[Text] Only a few minutes ago, the presidency's press room released the texts of the resignations tendered by two members of the Supreme Court of Justice. One of them is dated 21 February 1979:

Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government:

Mr President: I tender to you and through your honorable person to the Supreme Council of Government my irrevocable resignation from the post of justice in the very excellent Supreme Court of Justice. Sincerely yours, Dr Carlos Anibal Jaramillo

The other resignation was tendered by Dr Eduardo Holguin Albornoz. The text follows:

Quito, 23 February 1979

Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government:

Mr President: I tender to you and through your honorable person to the Supreme Council of Government my irrevocable resignation from the post of minister of the Supreme Court of Justice. Very sincerely yours, Dr Eduardo Holguin Albornoz

These are the official texts of the resignations tendered to Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government, by two members of the Supreme Court of Justice. This has been described as indicating a possible crisis in that high-ranking body of Ecuadorean justice.

FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO DISCLAIMS INTEREST IN POLITICS

PA261604 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Dr Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra has stated: My decision is final. I have returned to Ecuador thanks to the kindness of my relatives, but I have done so only to meditate and to die. Consequently, I am not going to participate in any political activity of a [word indistinct] nature. Nor am I going to play an advisory role for, or give support to, any party.

This is what Dr Velasco Ibarra emphatically stated when he was asked for a message to the Ecuadorean people on the situation in the country.

During the television program "Tertulia de Domingo," broadcast on Channel 4, Patricio Quevedo Teran and Dr Luis (Eradio Tobano) spoke with the former president of the republic about philosophical matters, Velasco's work and international law. With regard to the reasons for the civic apathy of the citizens of Ecuador, the old caudillo said cuttingly that this derives from the so-called plan of return, which is ridiculous. Imagine, he said, the case of a referendum between two alleged constitutions. How many of those governing and those being governed know enough about political law to make a decision in this regard? Dr Velasco asked.

LA TRIBUNA ON ARGENTINA'S EXPLOITATION OF TRADE TALKS

PY241855 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Feb 79 p 4 PY

[By Luis Sixto Alen]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires--It is maintained in the Argentine Economy Ministry that it was no coincidence that the stagnation of trade negotiations with Paraguay occurred at the same time as the "impasse" in the talks over the Parana River dams, but it is also clear that the packet of measures under negotiation involves the need for a thorough study of the impact of customs tariff reductions, particularly its impact on Paraguay.

Already in October, during the last important meeting of the joint commission, Argentina closed its open trade policy and refused to grant concessions because of Paraguay's support for Brazil regarding the increase in the number of Itaipu turbines. From that time, the Argentines have made the resumption of trade negotiations subject to some kind of definitition of the dam question, according to statements by Buenos Aires government officials.

From the Argentine point of view the resumption of trade talks depends on Paraguay, which should take the following steps: 1) support for a tripartite agreement regarding the Itaipu-Corpus question; 2) a reply to Argentine requests for facilities for the entry of some of its products [on the Paraguayan market].

Although Argentine officials argue that a toning down of the Paraguayan alinement with Brazil on the dam question will lead to the implementation of favorable trade measures, they maintain that the Asuncion government should also grant concessions for the entry of Argentine products into the country, such as shoes and textiles, among others, for which they have tried to obtain for some time a free entry into the Paraguayan market.

Paraguayan protectionism is understood, however, by experts of the Economy Ministry and the Secretariat of International Trade and Economic Negotiations. They admit that the Paraguayan Government has its reasons for defending national industry in several fields which provide important sources of income for the population.

It is therefore said that in the end it is a political question, subject to the vicissitudes of the negotiations over the use of the River Plate Basin's water power. The dependence of trade talks on a tripartite solution for the Parana River question is a fact.

BRIEFS

CUMULATIVE BUDGET SURPLUS--In a lecture during Government Employees Week held this past week, Finance Minister Cesar Barrientos said that in the last 3 years there has been a cumulative surplus of 8.7 million guaranies in the execution of the national budget primarily due to greater control of tax revenues and the enlargement of the tax basis, while still being able to grant tax reductions for exports, particularly those with added value, and exempting capital goods imports from customs duties. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Feb 79 p 13 PY]

DRAFT ON RETURN OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES DISCLOSED

PY222208 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2320 GMT 21 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 21 Feb (LATIN)--Two publications today disclosed details of the so-called draft for the return of political parties now in recess which is being studied by the civilian-military government. The evening newspaper EL DIARIO and the weekly magazine NOTICIAS both published the lengthy text of the draft which sets the guidelines for the resurrection of political party life, which has been in recess since 1973. These guidelines will regulate party activities with respect to the 1980 constitutional referendum and the 1981 elections. These elections will be held exactly 10 years after the last general elections in Uruguay.

According to the draft disclosed today, political parties will be able to promote only one candidate for each position in contention, prohibiting the so-called party labels law [ley de lemas] which allowed each party to add in its favor the votes of each faction or member group. They would then decide among themselves the winner of the post as the candidate who received the most votes within the party label.

The draft establishes that parties should set up permanent civic culture centers, and they may have a special category of members for persons under 18 years of age who will not have the right to participate in party elections. It also establishes that within 90 days following notification of the resolution which temporarily recognizes a political party, its authorities should present to the electoral court its first list of party members, accompanied by duplicate copies of the members' registration papers.

With regard to party propaganda, it will be expressly prohibited to use the likenesses, names or any other references to Jose Artigas, Fructuoso Rivera and Juan Antonio Lavalleja, heroes of the Uruguayan independence. It also prohibits the use of any symbol or mention whatsoever of foreign countries, groups, political parties, or any other foreign association or institution.

The process of the return to institutionality, promoted by the government and announced 1 and 1/2 years ago, includes a call for elections in November 1981 with one single candidate, resulting from an agreement of the traditional parties (Blanco and Colorado). There will also be a prior referendum in 1980, in which the citizenry will vote on a new constitution which is now being drawn up, according to official sources. The process also contemplates the resumption of political party activities, in recess since 1973, for the country's two traditional parties.

Although the draft of regulations for the resumption of political parties has not yet been officially disclosed, its publication today in the press is interpreted here as a sign that the measure will soon be approved by the civilian-military government headed by Aparicio Mendez.

10.8-PERCENT INFLATION RATE WORRIES OFFICIALS, PRIVATE SECTOR

PY261852 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 26 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 26 Feb (AFP)--A strong unexpected inflationary thrust of 10.8 percent during the past 2 months has caused concern among official circles here during the past few days and raised new questions in private sectors about the current liberal Uruguayan economic leadership. According to local analysts, the change of a 100-year-old static economic state toward a gradual liberalism which has had shocking consequences in several areas has not yet, after 6 years, dispelled doubts in several sectors about the effective control of the cost of living.

USSR NAMES DELEGATION FOR HERRERA CAMPINS INAUGURATION

PA280104 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Feb (AFP)--Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, will head a Soviet delegation to attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins on 12 March.

The announcement was made by Vladimir Kazimirov, Soviet ambassador in Caracas, after a meeting with Herrera, with whom he discussed diplomatic relations and trade between the two countries.

Herrera's inauguration will be attended by several Latin American heads of state.

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN UNDER ARREST FOR MASSACRE

PA231201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0222 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Cristobal, Venezuela, 22 Feb (EFE)--Three members of the Venezuelan National Guard remain under arrest and are being questioned regarding an alleged massacre of peasants in a forest region in Tachira State bordering Colombia in the western part of Venezuela.

A judge and a district attorney are directing investigations begun after Colombian citizen Maria Eulalia Martinez, mother of two Colombian peasants who disappeared without a trace, brought charges.

It was also learned that a companion of the two missing Colombians, Jose Said Perez--also a Colombian citizen--stated at a local court in Tibu, Colombia, that by pretending to be dead he became the sole survivor of a massacre of 10 of his countrymen, including the 2 sons of the woman who brought charges before the local authorities.

Said Perez added that he was wounded in the knee after having been detained by three individuals dressed in civilian clothes claiming to be members of the Venezuelan Technical Police. According to Said Perez the three alleged policemen took the belongings of the Colombians and then opened fire.

It was stated here a few hours ago that three more half-buried bodies were found in the region where the judicial investigation is taking place. This raises to nine the number of bodies found in similar conditions during the past 3 months. Nevertheless, according to statements of the Colombian survivor, the number of murdered could reach 30. It was also said that all the bodies found so far had .45-caliber bullet wounds in their backs.

A thick curtain of silence surrounds the police investigations, while rumors circulating in the city say that it could have been a settling of accounts between drug traffickers. However, after the investigations were begun it was said that during the past few days there had been many reports by cattlemen in the region of Colombian workers who have disappeared from their ranches without leaving a trace.

ASSOCIATION OF FOUNDERS OF PRI CHOOSES NEW LEADERSHIP

PA241448 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A new committee of directors of the Association of Founders of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] was elected today.

Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, president of the PRI, said during the ceremony that he will seek to attract veterans and youths in order to strengthen the principles of our history. Carvajal Moreno said that revolutionary principles have kept Mexico's national roots from being undermined.

The new leadership of the Association of Founders of the PRI is the following: Honorary presidents, Aaron Saenz and (Nazario Ortiz Larto); lifetime president, Luis Leon, a founder of the PRI, which is 50 years old this year; executive president, Jesus Virales; vice presidents, Enrique (Osomino) and (Fragedis) Balboa.

SOLIDARITY STRIKE WITH NAYARIT UNIVERSITY WORKERS STAGE

PA271628 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Report by Emma Galvan]

[Excerpts] From 0700 to 2200 today 24 national universities staged a strike in solidarity with workers of the Autonomous University of Nayarit. Serafin Torres, internal affairs secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions of University Employees, reported that there was no violence during the strike. The 40,000 university workers who participated in the solidarity strike demanded punishment of those responsible for violent incidents that took place last week at the University of Nayarit. They also demanded indemnification for the dead workers' relatives and restoration of the democratic systems at the Nayarit University. Red and black flags were flown at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and all access routes to the campus were blocked off without incident. Along with the flags, black crepe was hung as a sign of mourning.

Raul Campos Rabago, president of the Autonomous Associations of Academic Officials of the UNAM, said that the university professors reject these solidarity strikes. [Begin Campos Rabago recording] The Autonomous Associations of Academic Officals reiterate their position on these political movements. We are completely opposed to the walkout at the UNAM for causes which are obviously and mainly political, alien to the interests of the institution. [end of recording]

The executive secretary of the National Association of Universities and Higher Learning Institutes [Asociacion Nacional de Universidades e Institutos de Ensenanza Superior--ANUIES], Dr Rafael Velasco Fernandez, said that this group will intervene in the Nayarit University dispute if the conflicting parties so desire. [Begin Velasco Fernandez recording] The strikers have announced that their strike is in support of the decisions made by the Trade Unions Federation in Nayarit to request the dismissal of a university official and the restoration of order and so forth. So far ANUIES has intervened only to the extent that the institutions--in this case, the union and the university officials--have requested. This intervention was carried out solely as mediation in a dispute resulting from revision of a labor contract. Anything else--violent incidents as a result of a conflict that for all intents and purposes seems to be a union dispute--is out of the scope of the ANUIES. Therefore, the national council decided not to interfere. It might intervene later if both parties so desire, but only in relation to something that ANUIES has to deal with and in which it can intervene positively, but not violent incidents which pertain to other officials. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

CARAZO PROVIDES TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR VENEZUELA VISIT

PA280322 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo's tentative agenda for his visit to Venezuela includes meetings with President Carlos Andres Perez, President-elect Luis Herrera Campins and former President Rafael Caldera. The principal subject of their talks will be the supply of Venezuelan oil to Costa Rica. Although President Carazo's activities in Venezuela will be extensive, the main issue will be negotiations for oil. Carazo has planned to meet with Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry officials in order to define all matters concerning the supply of Venezuelan oil to Costa Rica. Venezuela and Curacao are Costa Rica's principal fuel suppliers.

The International Association of Rural Housing of Venezuela will name President Carazo its honorary president. This recognition is being given because Carazo was one of the founders of that organization. A special ceremony has been planned at its offices which will be attended by high-ranking Venezuelan Government and business representatives.

President Carazo will leave on Saturday morning, 10 March, and will meet with President Carlos Andres Perez that afternoon. On the same day he will also meet with Luis Herrera Campins and Rafael Caldera. With Perez he will discuss foreign and economic policy, but will principally thank the government for its aid to Costa Rica. He will discuss with Herrera Campins future relations between the two countries, and he will just hold a friendly chat with Caldera.

In addition to the meetings listed above, Carazo will place a wreath in honor of Simon Bolivar. He will also visit the Costa Rican colony in Caracas, review a military parade and meet with personal friends in Venezuela. Carazo will travel to Venezuela on the plane of President Carlos Andres Perez, who will send the aircraft to Costa Rica for this purpose. Carazo will be accompanied by Justice Minister Elizabeth Odio, Foreign Minister Rafael Calderon Fournier, Government Secretary Bernardo Carrillo, Jose Luis Cardona, Federico Alvarez, Jorge Arturo Monge Zamora and Angel Marin Aguilar.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT ECUADOR 6 MARCH

PA271839 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier will pay a 3-day visit to Ecuador beginning Tuesday. During his visit, made at the official invitation of the government of that South American country, he will discuss the terms of the marine and submarine delimitation convention that will be signed by Costa Rica and Ecuador soon.

CAPTAIN OF SEIZED TUNA VESSEL UNDER ARREST IN PUNTARENAS

PA280413 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The tuna fishing vessel captured off Cocos Island was inspected this afternoon while the ship's captain was detained in Puntarenas. The same vessel had previously been to Puntarenas. The fine for illegal fishing could be set as high as $46,000. It is assessed at the rate of $1,000 per ton of tuna.

The Puntarenas judge and Judicial Investigation Organization officials made a visual inspection of the U.S.-registered White Star, which was captured last Saturday by patrol ship No 405 in the vicinity of Cocos Island.

Judge Gilberto Salas has 6 days after the inspection to determine whether to try the ship's captain, Peter Paul [name indistinct], who is under arrest in Puntarenas.

It was determined that the ship has a gross capacity of 837 tons, according to the Panama Canal Administration register.

OAS OBSERVERS BRIEFED ON 'OPERATION CHECKMATE'

PA271324 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Government and Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey reported yesterday that Public Force Chief Col Fernando Munoz Marin [words indistinct] to Liberia to meet with members of the OAS observers commission. It was explained that the meeting was intended to brief the OAS observers on Operation Checkmate, to be undertaken by security officials on Wednesday.

The ministry has organized an operation that will last about 15 days and is designed to clear the area bordering Nicaragua of alleged Sandinist National Liberation Front members and Somoza guardsmen.

TWO MORE NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS DESERT ARMY

PA280120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 27 Feb (AFP)--Two more Nicaraguan soldiers deserted today and surrendered themselves to Costa Rican authorities. A total of nine Nicaraguan soldiers have now deserted the army. Bismarck Miranda, a 19-year-old corporal, and Private Jose Salgado, 17, were stationed on La Esperanza farm, owned by Gen Anastasio Somoza and located on the border with Costa Rica near the city of Los Chiles. Both soldiers are now being detained in the offices of the National Security Agency where they will be questioned before a decision is made on whether to grant them asylum.

BRIEFS

STORM DAMAGES BANANA CROP--A windstorm has lashed banana plantations owned by the Costa Rican Banana Company on the southern Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Initial estimates are that the company lost approximately 345,000 banana trees. Another 35,000 banana trees of independent producers were also destroyed. Of the total destroyed, 295,000 trees were already bearing fruit. Total damage was estimated at 9 million colones. Consequently, Costa Rica will export 411,000 fewer cases of bananas next week. The Costa Rican Banana Company estimated that approximately 3,000 hectares of banana plantations were affected by the wind storm. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA]

EL SALVADOR

FAVORABLE REACTION TO REPEAL OF PUBLIC ORDER LAW NOTED

PA271454 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0906 GMT 27 Feb 79 PA

[By Adrian Roberto Saldana]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 27 Feb (LATIN)--Salvadoran political circles today reacted favorably to the abrogation of the Defense and Guarantee of Public Order Law. A bill to repeal the law has been submitted to Congress by the government.

The 2-year-old law has been rejected by various social and political sectors which consider it harmful to their interests.

On announcing its decision to abrogate the law, the government said that it is doing so because the law has not fulfilled its purpose since, far from combating subversion, it has increased it.

According to politicians of various groups, the law has hindered acceptance of demands by the kidnapers of British citizens Ian Cameron Massie and Michael Stanislaus Chatterton, Japanese Takakazu Suzuki and Israeli Consul Ernesto Liebes, who have been held by the Armed Forces of National Resistance for the past few weeks.

President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero explained that the abrogation of the law signifies a general amnesty for political prisoners who have been tried for crimes of subversion. With a general amnesty, all citizens who have been processed in the first and second penal courts will be released.

Romero stressed that the decision to repeal the law does not mean that agreement has been reached with terrorist groups. He noted that he had requested the repeal of the Defense and Guarantee of Public Order Law because it does not help contain subversion.

When the abrogation goes into effect, political parties will be able to hold public meetings, demonstrations and all types of activities without a permit, as the law now requires.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON TRIP TO UNITED STATES, OTHER ISSUES

PA280426 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Maj Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia gave a detailed report on his recent trip to the United States, saying that it had been positive and that he had occasion to be the main speaker at a dinner, as is done every year by a Central American chief of state. General Lucas Garcia said he visited several states, inspected various projects and that in New Orleans he was offered technical assistance for the building of new ports on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Afterwards, President Lucas Garcia told newsmen at a press conference that the increase in the price of gasoline had taken him by surprise. He will order the Mining and Hydrocarbons Secretariat to investigate the matter of fuel prices in detail.

General Lucas Garcia emphatically denied that he had gone to the United States to seek loans for national projects, saying that he had been invited by U.S. businessmen and industrialists.

He was also asked about statements by Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer that the practice of shooting prisoners who were allegedly escaping was again in effect in Guatemala. The president replied that very possibly the vice president had said this facetiously because the government would have to assume responsibility in this regard, but no one knows who comprises the death squad.

He said he would try to convince the vice president not to resign. Regarding Francisco Villagran Kramer's statement on his possible resignation, General Lucas Garcia said that he will be the first to try to convince him that resigning will not help solve existing problems. He will ask the vice president to forget the whole matter and continue working for the good of the country.

VICE PRESIDENT CALLS PARTIES TO NATIONAL DIALOG

PA270432 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 21 Feb 79 p 5 PA

[Text] Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer has appealed to political parties on behalf of the government to hold a national dialog and seek formulas for peaceful coexistence.

In telegrams to political parties dated 19 February, the vice president expressed his fervent wishes to have a national dialog, which was considered to be very important during a Cabinet meeting held on 17 February. The texts of the telegrams signed by Vice President Villagran Kramer are as follows:

"To the Board of Directors of the Democratic Institutional Party (PID) and Revolutionary Party (PR):

"As political parties which have assumed the sponsibilites of government, allow me to tell you how important it is for you to have n active participation in meetings with other political parties and with committees ganizing political parties, meetings in which domestic problems are being discussed. This was decided at a Cabinet meeting held on Saturday, 17 February.

"Truly yours

"Francisco Villagran Kramer, vice president of the republic"

The telegram to the Christian Democratic Party says:

"During a meeting held on Saturday, 17 February, the Cabinet analyzed the serious problems affecting the nation and considered that every effort made by political parties to find formulas for peaceful coexistence is constructive. The president of the republic has given instructions to parties which have assumed the responsibilities of government to participate in every way to achieve a national dialog. I trust that the Christian Democratic Party leadership will contribute toward making this possible.

"Yours truly"

The following message was sent to Mario Sandoval Alarcon, director general of the National Liberation Movement (MLN):

"At a meeting held on Saturday, 17 February, the members of the Cabinet considered that it was important for political parties to hold a dialog in order to discuss national problems. I hope that the organization over which you preside will participate in this dialog.

"Yours truly"

The message to Luis Alfonso Lopez, secretary general of the Nationalist Authentic Central, says:

"Through you, I wish to convey to the Political Committee of the Nationalist Authentic Central my fervent wishes to have this organization participate in all the efforts made for national understanding and to contribute with constructive ideas to a dialog among political parties and committees forming parties. The Cabinet meeting held on Saturday, 17 February stressed the importance of political parties to make every effort toward a national dialog and find formulas for peaceful coexistence.

"Yours truly"

VILLIGRAN KRAMER DISCUSSES VIOLENCE WITH NEWS DIRECTORS

PA271411 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 21 Feb 79 p 2 PA

[Excerpts] The daily LA NACION has published a special report on the meeting that Vice President Dr Francisco Villagran Kramer has held with newspaper directors to discuss, in particular, the subject of violence. This is what the prestigious morning newspaper reports:

The government is concerned with the change in the country's situation as a result of increasing violence. This situation presents a difficult problem, said Vice President Dr Francisco Villagran Kramer yesterday during a meeting with news directors at the presidential palace which was also attended by journalists Carlos Toledo Vielmann and Maj Rolando Archila Marroquin, secretary and deputy secretary of the Public Relations Office of the Presidency, respectively.

In yesterday's meeting with the directors of newspapers and radio and television news programs, Vice President Villagran Kramer reported that there have been outbreaks of unrest among the peasants of Izabal as a result of land disputes, a situation of long standing and one that represents a complex problem that several governments have had to face.

With regard to the guerrillas, the vice president said that they are operating in the region of El Quiche, where rebels are trying to instigate the peasants, delivering speeches to them in their own dialects with the participation of armed guerrilla women dressed in clothes of the region speaking Quiche to the peasants.

The vice president noted the defense minister's report that the army, in compliance with constitutional law, is safeguarding the country's territorial integrity but is not taking any action that would be within the police's jurisdiction. He said the police director has noted that his institution is facing a difficult situation due to a lack of personnel and inadequate equipment. He complained that many policemen are being used to protect officials, disregarding other functions.

It has been reported that [National Police Chief] Colonel Chupina has been asked about charges of missing persons. He has responded that many of these cases involve young persons who leave the country willingly, some for Nicaragua and others for Mexico and the United States, and that their whereabouts are established once they are deported to Guatemala.

The general terms, the main objective of the meeting with the news directors and those to be held with reporters and the private sector is to seek solutions to the problem of violence, which has been on the increase lately.

BRIEFS

ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE--The General Agricultural Services Office [Direccion General de Servicios Agricolas--DIGESA] and the Israeli Embassy have signed a letter of understanding which provides for Israeli agricultural experts to give short courses to Guatemalan personnel on agricultural subjects. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 15 Feb 79 p 9 PA]

LUCAS GARCIA PROMOTED--The government has issued Decree No 5-79, which was approved by Congress and signed by Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer in his capacity as acting president. It grants the rank of major general to President Brig Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 20 Feb 79 p 2 PA]

NICARAGUA

U.S. REPORTEDLY PREPARING ANOTHER MEDIATION PROPOSAL

PA280335 Paris AFP in Spanish 0259 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[By Horacio Ruiz]

[Excerpt] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--According to local political circles, everything seems to indicate that the United States is preparing another mediation plan for a solution to the political crisis which has encumbered Nicaragua for 16 months. It was unofficially reported that U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Mauricio Solaun, who is now in Washington for consultation, could return "soon" with a new proposal for President Anastasio Somoza. However, the sources said that in this case the United States would be acting alone since the first tripartite mediation commission, composed of the United States, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, failed last year. The same sources said that President Somoza appears to be prepared to pave the way for the mediation process by promoting comgressional amendments to the constitution.

SANDINISTS CALL STRATEGIC HALT IN NATIONAL OFFENSIVE

PA280212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 28 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 27 Feb (AFP)--According to a clandestine communique circulating today, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] conceded that it has made a strategic halt in its offensive to capture cities. In the same communique, the FSLN said that during the month of February it killed 15 National Guardsmen and wounded another 14 in fights carried out in northern Nicaragua. However, before giving the "green light" to the so-called "strategic halt," several Sandinist groups fired upon the principal National Guard garrison in Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, starting a series of skirmishes. Military patrols came out of the garrison and pursued the attackers through several sectors of the city. One Sandinist was killed and several were wounded. The attack on the garrison occurred after an opposition rally was held on the first anniversary of the rebellion of the Monimbo Indian District in February 1978.

Press reports said that the army staged fights with Sandinist guerrillas in Yali, 170 km north of Managua. There were no reports of any victims. In Rio Grande, 140 km west of Managua, a Sandinist force estimated at 40 men attacked the local railroad station and blew up one of the railroad cars. In El Sauce, 120 km west of Managua, it was reported that three rural judges had been killed after the Sandinists accused them of being army informers.

FSLN LEADER HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE IN PARIS

PA241729 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tomas Borge, a leader of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] of Nicaragua, said in Paris on Friday that the FSLN's strategy is to create a people's revolutionary army and strengthen the alliance against Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship. Borge also said that the FSLN is continuously harassing the government forces throughout Nicaragua while awaiting the moment to unleash a generalized insurrection.

During the conference in the French capital, Tomas Borge noted Cuba's solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people. He also hailed the victory of the Iranian people and noted its significance for the process of changing the correlation of forces in the world in favor of revolution.

RAUL CASTRO RECEIVES ORDER OF LENIN IN MOSCOW

FL271803 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Moscow--Leonid Brezhnev, maximum Soviet leader, presented to army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC, the Order of Lenin in the Kremlin today. Thereafter, they held a meeting.

We have known well and for a long time Raul Castro, one of the closest comrades-in-arms of Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban Revolution, the CPSU general secretary said. Brezhnev said that Raul Castro has done much for the development of multilateral Soviet-Cuban ties and for the strengthening of cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

The highest decoration of our homeland, the Order of Lenin, is a fitting appraisal of his merits, asserted the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The presentation of the order took place at a simple ceremony that was attended by top representatives of the CPSU, government and Soviet Armed Forces, and the military delegation that is accompanying Raul Castro and PCC Central Committee and Cuban Council of State members Vilma Espin and Severo Aguirre del Cristo.

Upon arrival in the hall where the ceremony was held, Brezhnev greeted Raul Castro and Vilma Espin. He also greeted the other members of the Cuban delegation.

In his remarks, army Gen Raul Castro expressed gratitude for the decoration on behalf of the party leadership, Communists and Young Communists and all the Cuban revolutionaries he represents. The Cuban leader said he received the Order of Lenin in the same spirit that he received in the Sierra Maestra the decision of Fidel Castro, commander in chief of the rebel army, to promote him and entrust to him the opening and command of a second battle front. Just as at that time, he added, I believe that historic circumstances and the destiny I selected when I became a communist offer me a new opportunity to renew my oath of loyalty to the cause of the oppressed and exploited, the cause of liberation, justice and social progress and the cause of socialism and communism.

Raul Castro said that it is especially satisfying to receive the Order of Lenin from the hands of Leonid Brezhnev, who heads the party that is leading the Soviet state to new and loftier heights of progress and prosperity for its people and practices a Leninist foreign policy in the interests of people, peace, security and mankind's future.

Thereafter, Brezhnev and Raul Castro held a meeting in which they discussed matters concerned with the development and strengthening of cooperation between Cuba and the Soviet Union and current international events. Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov, minister of defense of the USSR, and Anatoliy Blatov, assistant to the CPSU general secretary, participated in the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and unanimity of views.

DEL VALLE NAMES MININT VANGUARD MEMBERS

FL242036 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Sergio del Valle, minister of the interior and member of the PCC Politburo, has awarded the distinction of being Interior Ministry [MININT] Vanguard members to officers, sergeants and soldiers in a ceremony held this morning at this capital's Granma memorial.

Presiding at the ceremony were MININT First Vice Minister Jose Abrahantes, the ministry high command and other members of the PCC Central Committee.

Following the national anthem, Capt Julio Lara, two times National Vanguard member and holder of two 20th Anniversary Medals, read a communique signed by the combatants who received the awards. The document states that they are ready to do whatever is necessary for Vietnam, a nation for which--like the rest of the Cuban people--they are willing to give their own blood.

Brig Gen Irving Ruiz, vice minister-chief of the MININT Political Directorate, noted in his closing remarks the importance of the high qualifications of the Vanguard members. He said that this recognition implies an attitude and efforts equal to the magnificent results they achieve in all their activities. The MININT and our people, with renewed vigor and following the example set by men like you, will continue to reap victories, he stressed.

Before closing his speech, in which he noted that Vanguard membership speaks highly of personal and revolutionary skills, Ruiz stressed the firmness of the combatants in denouncing China's criminal aggression against the Vietnamese people.

DORTICOS ADDRESSES STANDARDIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING

FL280033 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 79 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado today made the closing remarks at the meeting held by the committee for standards, metrology and quality control to examine accomplishments. Here is a telephone report by Mario Gonzalez Valdes.

[Begin recording] In his speech Dorticos referred to the main report submitted to the meeting by the institution's president, Ramon Darias. The document, he asserted, is eminently self-critical in the area of deficiencies and outlines all tasks conducted by the committee in 1978 and the current year. The State Committee for Standardization, despite serious difficulties, did an excellent job last year, and for this I congratulate all its workers, Dorticos noted elsewhere in his closing remarks.

A communique of solidarity with the 1,000-times heroic Vietnamese people, who today fight against the criminal aggression by the fascist caricature misgoverning China, was read during the evaluation meeting of that specialized institution. [end recording]

CONSTRUCTION QUALITY CONTROL MEETING OPENS

FL231947 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Text] A national quality control meeting sponsored by the Construction Ministry opened this morning, chaired by Ramiro Valdes and Pedro Miret, members of the PCC Politburo and vice presidents of the Council of State.

More than 330 delegations representing all provinces and construction and prefabricated elements enterprises, applied research enterprises and the Havana hydroeconomic projects [projectos de hidroeconomia] enterprise are participating in the meeting. The construction departments of the PCC Central Committee, the National Bureau of the Union of Young Communists and construction trade unions at the national and provincial levels, among others, are participating as observers.

The most important objectives of the meeting include establishing the bases for drafting and implementing the Construction Ministry's national quality control system and strengthening technical control.

Pedro Luis Dorticos, Construction Ministry vice minister for research and projects, made the opening remarks. He stressed that the meeting is the culmination of the phase of work to return quality to the construction sector. He also emphasized that the conscientious and active participation of the workers and the conviction that each is responsible for the quality of his own work are the principal factors in raising the qualitative level of construction work.

During the rest of the day, the delegates will meet in four committees corresponding to industrial and architectural works, among others. At the same time, a central working group will meet to draft agreements based on the results of the work of the committees. This afternoon, the draft will be submitted for discussion and approval at a plenary session.

INTERNATIONAL PORT ADMINISTRATION COURSE OPENS

FL232027 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1927 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Jose Ignacio Castro report]

[Text] The third phase of an international port administration course that will last until 15 March has opened at Solidarity Hall of the Havana Libre Hotel in Havana City.

(Eric Williamson), chief of the UNCTAD Ports Section; Swedish Ambassador to Cuba Thord Bengston; and Enrique Mena, vice minister for the maritime sector of the Construction Ministry, spoke at the inauguration.

The course has been sponsored by UNCTAD and organized by the Swedish Central Office for International Development Assistance. It has been designed for 23 participants from Latin American port enterprises of the following countries: Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela and Cuba.

The course is designed to seek solutions to facilitate the handling of merchandise at ports at minimum cost in such a way that the ports will be economic tools adapted to the development policy of the respective countries. Increased efficiency in port operations is a key factor to reduce transportation costs and facilitate foreign trade. Therefore, the primary objective of the course is to train the participants in such a way that they can detect the principal problems in port organization and operation and recommend practical and economically viable solutions. The curriculum covers port management, planning and utilization, as well as administrative aspects concerned with financial matters.

Cuba, which is rapidly developing economically, will take advantage of the lessons from this international port administration training course being given in Havana. After the course, we expect that our annual port [production] plans will continue to be overfulfilled in physical as well as economic values, without experiencing the operational problems that have precluded better results and affected the handling and delays of ships in our ports. Most of these problems are due to factors for which our ports are not responsible. Our port workers, who year after year overfulfill scheduled cargo handling plans, cannot be blamed for these problems. Most of the problems are subjective ones and, therefore, we are prepared to eliminate them so that by the end of the year the prompt handling record will be better than what we lose in demurrage.

ACTIVITY OF SOLIDARITY WITH NICARAGUAN PEOPLE

FL231954 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1912 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Text] An activity of solidarity with the struggle being waged by the fraternal people of Nicaragua has been held at the Manuel Ascunce Domenech Auditorium of the Enrique Jose Varona Higher Teacher Training Institute. Antonio Castro, member of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists; Ramon Rodriguez, director of the aforementioned institute; and youths of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] presided over the activity.

Julio Rosabal, president of the Federation of University Students at the institute, spoke during the activity, mentioning the exploitation to which the Nicaraguan people have been subjected. He also stressed the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people and the internationalist solidarity of the Cuban people.

FSLN member Antonio Maidano expressed the determination not to give up the armed struggle until complete sovereignty is gained, without any type of foreign mediation or intervention.

NONALINED, UN HEALTH EXPERTS TO MEET IN HAVANA

FL241309 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Nonalined countries movement health experts and representatives of UN international organizations concerned with health problems will participate in a meeting to be held in Havana from 21 to 23 March of this year. This meeting, which will be held at the Health Ministry's main offices, is part of our country's activities in preparation for the sixth nonalined summit conference.

LEVI FARAH TOURS IRAQI PROVINCES, MEETS LEADERS

FL241633 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1517 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Levi Farah, minister president of our country's State Committee for Construction, has concluded a tour of several provinces in Iraq, during which he held talks with local leaders. As part of his activities in that country the Cuban minister, accompanied by members of his delegation and Iraqi officials, conducted an aerial tour of the area where a 142-km road will be built between the Provinces of Mosul and Ta'mim with Cuba's assistance.

Farah, who traveled to Baghdad, Iraq's capital, from Libya, was received by Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of public works and housing. Farah and Yasin Ramadan examined the development of economic cooperation between our country and Iraq.

BRIEFS

NEW AIR SERVICE ROUTE--The new air route between the Isle of Youth and Pinar del Rio has been inaugurated with a flight by the first AN-2 airplane to cover this route to our country's westernmost province. Initially, only one roundtrip flight will be made [daily], with the plane taking off at 0730 from the Alvaro Barba Airport in Pinar del Rio and returning from Neuva Gerona on the 0850 flight. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1405 GMT 26 Feb 79 FL]

PRESIDENT GUZMAN DELIVERS STATE OF NATION ADDRESS

FL272101 Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1524 GMT 27 Feb 79 FL

[Dominican President Antonio Guzman's State of the Nation address at the National Congress in Santo Domingo on 27 February on the occasion of the 135th anniversary of independence, picked up in progress--live]

[Excerpts] [Here picked up in progress] Fiscal revenue began to respond favorably as a result of confidence in the new administration. In this way the amount received per month from September to December increased. Measures were also started to make the management of public funds more efficient and honest. The confidence resulting from these measures as a consequence also caused a notable improvement in the development of institutions such as the national lottery, which was in a deplorable state, as reflected in the number of tickets and quinielas which went unsold.

From the start of our administration, I started taking coherent measures directed at economic and social orientation, which I have described in earlier speeches. The government, as I have clearly stated, is determined to take our country out of the irresponsible condition that it has been in for some time. I have begun a struggle to combat unemployment, bad distribution of wealth, and to increase our production, expanding the markets. This is shown by the drafts of laws going through the National Congress and the administrative drafts and measures which I have taken lately.

Improvements in agrobusiness and the agricultural-livestock sector have markedly improved in the last six months. Institutional and technical changes have occurred which have contributed to the development of this sector, which traditionally has been characterized by stagnation and deterioration. In an extraordinarily short time we have made considerable advances, and the outlook is truly promising and will have positive results for the rest of the economy. Our aim is to make the agricultural-livestock sector the prime mover of the country's economic and social development. [applause] Its dynamism will depend on our ability to solve the problems of migration, distribution of income, employment, nutrition, balance of payments and to promote agrobusiness. The production goals forecast for September through December last year reached 87 percent, with one month of the program still remaining.

The quarterly harvest plan was over 100-percent fulfilled. This is an important achievement for the government. It means the planting of more than 1.5 million (?caballerias) of 12 basic crops.

The government is offering large incentives to produce meat, especially by promoting the raising of goats, rabbits and poultry. We aim to sponsor substitutions for imports of those products derived from milk, and we will take price support measures for forage grains, balanced and concentrated food and fertilizers adapted to the cost structure. Another positive aspect is in the price levels in the majority of the foodstuffs, which are much more reasonably priced than in previous years.

In the field of agricultural-livestock production the government is not only taking short-term measures, but is also setting up middle- and long-term projects which in the final analysis will eliminate the country's food deficit. We are negotiating with the Interamerican Development Bank for the third pillar, which comprises undertaking 11 projects over 4 years for a total cost of 82 million [presumably pesos], of which about 42.5 million will be obtained through a loan.

These projects include the consolidation plan for peasant settlements for 28 million.

The first phase of the Azua Province plan includes settlement of 1,600 families in an area of 100,000 (?caballerias) to be brought into production in Azua Valley, which will include the facilities which characterize an integrated plan. It will cost 12 million. The research extension, training and plant health projects will cost 24.4 million. The animal health project will cost 3.8 million, the seed project 9.5 million and the land and aquaculture projects 1.7 million. The government has just signed a loan contract for 27 million with the World Bank to carry out the (Marcos Cabral de Sao) project in the area of the confluence of the Valdesia dam at a cost of 51 million.

I should mention the recent agreement signed between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Dominican Republic for the purchase of agricultural products at a value of 14.6 million [presumably pesos] as authorized by [U.S.] Public Law 480. A loan for 25 million from the U.S. credit corporation for agricultural-livestock products was also obtained. These resources will be used to finance the purchase of wheat, wheat flour, corn, sorghum, soya, vegetable oil and rice. The revenues obtained here from the sale of the P.L.-480 products will be used in financing agricultural-livestock development projects.

It should be noted that since August various plots of land have been handed out--7,017 family parcels, with 4,102 still pending, for an area of 49,286 (?caballerias). This shows the marked interest of the government to stamp out the old agrarian reform programs to benefit farmers without land, so that they can attend to their families' needs. [applause]

Other projects we are undertaking in agriculture and livestock include economically reviving and restructuring INESPRE [National Price Stabilization Institute], which will make this organization an effective mechanism supporting prodcuers and consumers in the domestic commercialization and supply process.

In regard to irrigation, one of the projects is the international Perdenales dike, which will irrigate 20,000 (?caballerias) in the Dominican Republic.

In regard to the irrigation project at the confluence of the Salameta dam, with the $59 million to be loaned by the Interamerican Development Bank, which has already been approved by its directorate and will be signed in April, new canals will be built for rice cultivation, linked to the San Juan canal and to the distribution and drainage network of the (Jose Rocin Coello), to provide for the irrigation of 279,232 (?caballerias) located on both sides of San Juan River. It is estimated that agricultural production will be some 38.7 million pesos per year, and those participating in the planting will benefit by receiving 21.7 million pesos per year.

In regard to public health, besides the 70 rural clinics, the 12 health subcenters and the enrollment we have begun, I can report that we are making all necessary efforts so that every doctor in the secretariat complies with his schedule and duties. At the same time, they are carrying out audits in all public establishments of the department as part of the implantation of a total and efficient administrative reorganization. I should tell the nation that one of the contributions made by the government to the most needy classes is the elimination of charging them at all of the country's hospitals and public services.

From August to February more than 1.5 million antipolio vaccination doses were administered to children under 5 years of age, as a result of which we have only had one case reported this year, following the epidemic of this terrible disease we endured at the beginning of our administration, due to the lack of foresight of the previous administration's health authorities.

Six nutrition centers are already in operation in the capital. These function in coordination with hospitals and other children's [medical] centers. In support of these efforts a mass campaign of mother-child lectures to educate the mothers has been undertaken. The mental health program is directed at preventing this type of disease and, to that end, eight centers have been established in Santo Domingo, Santiago, San Juan de la Maguana and San Pedro de Macoris. At the same time, the program provides for the reeducation of young adults, especially those having criminal records, and the reorganization of the Rodolfo de la Cruz Lora psychiatric hospital.

From August to December 200 nurses were graduated. A salary increase to a minimum of 150 pesos was authorized for these selfless workers. Large quantities of equipment have been acquired to improve services in this important area, such as motorcycles for 150 health workers to expand medical services in the more remote areas of the country.

Shortly, two medical supply warehouses will be dedicated, which will service the northern and southern regions. Laboratories have been built in all health centers, and corresponding studies are underway to build a national laboratory which will be used as a central coordinating center. Having taken these steps, and with the creation of a (?board of specialists), we now have a team that can conduct seven basic tests. The program will cost some three million pesos, and it will provide for the diagnosis of diseases and needed medicines. At the school level some 30,000 children will be covered by medical services, and with the facilities we will have in 1980 that number will double.

In the area of social services of this state secretariat a true administration reorganization has taken place. More than 100 social workers have been employed, and they are doing very positive work. Some 3,000 scholarships have been granted to those who really need this assistance.

Regarding the housing problem, I must point out that my administration is making every effort to step up the construction of housing. The National Housing Institute has been given the resources needed to expand its activities throughout the country, whether it be urban or rural areas. In the past, allocations to this sector were made based on political reasons. Now this institution has been assigned more than six million [presumably pesos] to avoid a delay of its programs and allow new ones to be initiated.

In 1979 we are planning to build 6,000 dwellings, 3,000 of which will be located in urban areas, 1,000 in suburban areas and 2,000 in rural areas. Three thousand of them are already under construction, of which 1,800 are located in Santo Domingo and 1,200 in Santiago, Puerto Plata, El Seibo, Azua and other locations. In addition, the National Housing Institute is preparing new programs.

Aside from the quantitative aspect we have described, still more important are the actions put into practice, both by the INVE [National Housing Institute] and the National Housing Bank, to make the dwellings more affordable through easy installment payments. The urban dwellings will cost from 7,500 to 10,000 pesos. The down payments will vary from 10 to 12 percent, and the rest will be paid over 20 or 30 years, so that the subsidies provided by the state will make the monthly payments between 50 and 60 pesos a month, including the 8.5 percent interest and part of the maintenance quota. The suburban dwelling, single unit or apartment, whose cost will not exceed 5,000 pesos per unit, will require a down payment of not more than five percent and monthly installment payments not exceeding 25 pesos per month.

For its part, the National Housing Bank has decided to allow a 40-percent reduction in down payments fixed by that institution to speed up the housing construction industry and allow a greater number of families to acquire their own homes through the efficient savings and loan system. This means that a 12,000 peso house, which required a down payment of 1,500, will now only require 800 pesos. This allows a large number of nuclear families, who earlier did not have access to this financing or did not have reserves for the initial downpayment, to qualify with a much smaller economic effort.

The banks have also decided, in accordance with the housing policy of the government, and uniting with the efforts being made by the National Housing Institute, to open possibilities in mortgage insurance, so that those qualified people who desire them can obtain loans to build houses on their rural properties or expand or improve existing ones.

This government, in eliminating the unequal competition between the state and the private sector in medium- and high-cost housing construction has given the chance to a large number of promoters to start construction projects for the sale of housing units. This is an activity which deserves all of the government's support. For this purpose, we are asking the Central Bank authorities to set up the appropriate mechanisms in the shortest time possible and create necessary and sufficient conditions for the National Housing Bank to attend to the growing requests for short-term domestic financing in housing construction projects. [applause] The National Housing Bank will examine the necessary resources through the Savings and Loan Association and the Mortgage Bank. Through these measures, the construction industry will be revitalized, in this way improving the [living] conditions of a large number of families, allowing them to carry out economic activities stimulating the mobilization of financial resources at all levels in the development of the country.

The Dominican people to date have seen the results of an administration which in great measure has not been the result of my government. I have wanted to offer a description of what we have done since 16 August 1978. It is unquestionable that we found the country hurt by administration of the public business in a way with which we do not agree and an economic depression resulting from political uncertainty.

All of what has been said earlier requires from my fellow citizens great sacrifices, disinterested support and a great dose of patriotism. This is the only way we will be able to see to it that our nation will follow the path of true development. And I say this because a government administration is not only the pledge of government officials, but also that of the political party--which becomes the official [party]. It is their unavoidable duty to defend the director of the national destiny through their own style of governing. And the Dominican people, in the present situation, should forget their passions and political affiliations and join the cause of the country in securing democracy through social and economic progress. [applause]

Precisely today, when we commemorate the 135th anniversary of our independence, we should evoke the remembrance and example of our fathers of the country--Duarte, Sanchez and Mella--and all of those patriots who at fateful moments in our history knew how to cooperate with the spirit of Serive for a just and noble cause. And they joined their efforts to achieve what we all enjoy today. I hope that the Almighty will enlighten our spirits and help us in understanding this reality, so that we cease thinking of ourselves and our preferences before those of our great Dominican Republic. Thank you. [applause]